

Welcome



Helene Grua

To Seneca Creek State Park
The natural place to be

Located in Montgomery County, Seneca Creek State Park is in a stream valley that follows Great Seneca Creek for 12 miles to the Potomac River. The park's 6500 acre forest ecosystem protects the Potomac River watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. It is a sanctuary for native plants and animals. Visitors can enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, boating and disc golf.



While you are enjoying the park, please help us protect its natural and historic resources by following Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics.



Helene Grua



Courtesy of the Friends of Seneca Creek

The Woodlands

Seneca Valley Heritage

Upon arriving in the Seneca Valley in the late 1600s, European settlers found suitable climate, rich soils for farming and an abundance of fish and game. The availability of waterpower from many streams supported the development of gristmills in the valley. Old stone foundations and fencerows can still be seen in the park. The Clopper Mill and the Woodlands estate are the legacy of the Clopper family who once lived here.



Allow others to discover the park's unique resources by leaving rocks, plants cultural artifacts and other natural objects of interest as you find them.

The Clopper Mill



Courtesy of the Friends of Seneca Creek

Seneca Creek State Park

11950 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 924-2127

park-seneca@dnr.state.md.us

Maryland Park Service

1-800-830-3974 - TTY users call via MD Relay

Plan your outdoor adventures
or order trail guides on our website!
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Park Guidelines and Regulations

- A service charge is required for some park facilities and programs. Current service charge information can be obtained at the park office.
- Pets are not permitted in the Clopper Lake Day-Use Area. Pets on a leash are welcome on the Schaeffer Farm Trails and on the Greenway Trail.
- Remember, our park is Trash-free. Trash cans are not available. Pack it in, pack it out!
- Please report any problems to a park employee or call Park Watch at 1-800-825-7275.

Brochure funded by the friends of
Seneca Creek State Park



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
C. Ronald Franks, Secretary

This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.
The facilities and services of the Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or physical disability.
cover photo by Helene Grua
DNR-04-7272005-46 • 11/2005
Printed on recycled paper

SENECA CREEK
STATE PARK



PICKNICKING • HIKING
BIKING • FISHING



Clopper Lake Area

Picnicking & Pavilions

Family picnic sites with tables and grills are open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. Two picnic groves and six pavilions may be reserved by calling Park-Reservation at 1-888-432-2267. Or make your reservation on the Internet: reservations.dnr.state.md.us

Hiking & Biking

Enjoy forested hillsides and panoramas of Clopper Lake while hiking or biking the nine miles of trails.

Paddling

Ninety-acre Clopper Lake is the centerpiece of the day-use area. Canoes, kayaks, pedal boats and rowboats may be rented at the Boat Center, open May through September. Hand-launching private canoes, kayaks and rowboats is permitted on weekdays and on those weekends when the Boat Center is not in operation. Swimming is not permitted in Clopper Lake.

*Children must wear a life jacket at all times.
Use sun protection.*

Disc Golf Course

Bring your own disc to our scenic, 30-acre, 18-hole championship course for year-round enjoyment. Discs are available for purchase at the Park Office.



Fishing

Anglers can enjoy fishing on the lake for largemouth bass, blue gill, crappie, tiger muskie and channel catfish. Seneca Creek is stocked with trout for put-and-take fishing. Those 16 years old and above must possess a Maryland Non-tidal Fishing License.

Park Office Area

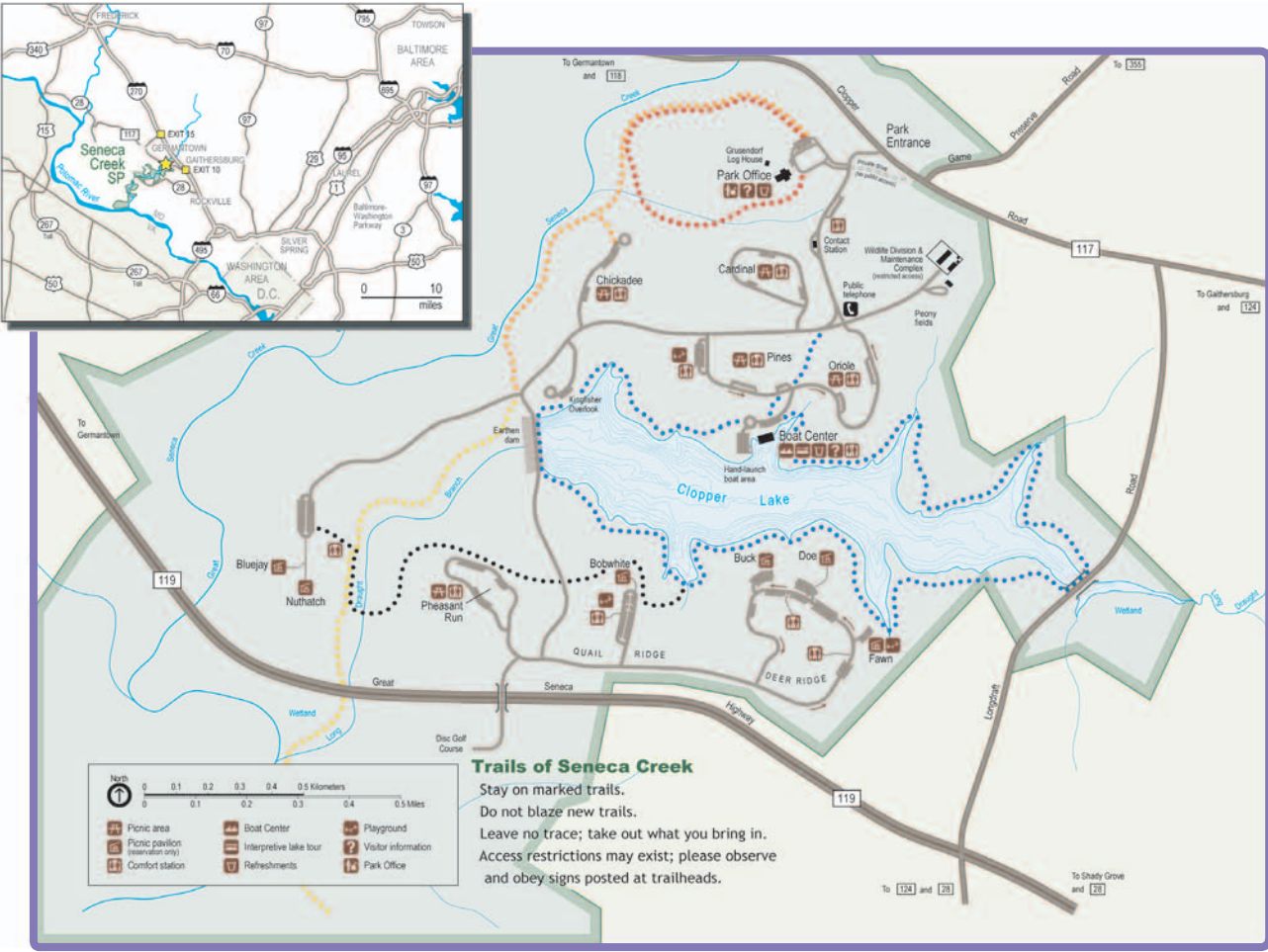
The park office features historical and natural exhibits and is a clearinghouse for information about the park. Seneca Outfitters sells park related gift items, shirts and disc golf equipment. The adjacent Woodlands Trail is a short- self-guided walk, which provides a glimpse in to the history of the area. The Old Pond Trail follows a small spring-fed tributary of the Great Seneca Creek. The Grusendorf Log House, seen near the office, was built circa 1855, and is one of the few remaining structures from the original Germantown.

Seneca Creek Greenway Trail

This natural surface trail follows the Great Seneca Creek from the Potomac River upstream to Route 355. A detailed description is available at www.senecatrail.org

Schaeffer Farm Trails

This trail system located outside the day-use area was designed with mountain biking in mind, but is a multi-use system open to cyclists, hikers and equestrians. It may be reached by traveling west on Clopper Road, past the intersection with Rte 118, turn left on Schaeffer Road. For general trail information, call the 24-hour taped trail condition message line at (301) 924-1998.



Do not ride when trails are wet and muddy. Please allow at least 24-48 hours for trails to dry after significant rain.

Become a Volunteer

Seneca Creek State Park offers many volunteer opportunities, such as trail maintenance, office help and park events. You can also become a Volunteer Ranger and assist Park Personnel with routine park functions and special events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact the park office for more information.

A Seneca Creek trail guide with a topographic map, and including Schaeffer Farm Trails and the Greenway Trail, is available for purchase at the park office or on our website: www.dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/trailguides.html

Directions

From Washington D.C., Virginia and points south: Take I-270 north toward Frederick, Maryland. Take exit 10, Clopper Road (Rt. 117) and continue for 2 miles. The park's entrance is on the left.

From points north: Take I-270 south towards Washington D.C. Take exit 11, MD Route 124 west. At the light, bear right and travel two more traffic lights and turn right onto Clopper Road (Rte 117). The park entrance is approximately 1.5 miles on the left.

